

an advanced industrial powerhouse. The National Park Service provides a great and honorable service by preserving the vestiges of this rich past.

Mr. Speaker, let us celebrate this week, the important and enjoyable role that our National Parks play in our lives as well as the dedication and hard work of their employees and volunteers. These individuals reflect America's commitment to its National Parks and thus deserve our full appreciation.

HONORING THE FREE KITCHEN PROJECT IN LAKEPORT, CALIFORNIA

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 24, 2002

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the outstanding achievements of the Free Kitchen Project. Ten years ago four distinguished organizations in Lakeport, California, a town of about 5000 people, began the Free Kitchen Project. The Free Kitchen Project serves people who are needy, lonely, transient, or families with an ill or handicapped person, each week, by providing a warm meal and environment.

The United Christian Parish, St. John's Episcopal Church, Lakeport Lions Club, and St. Mary's Parish organize over 200 Free Kitchen Project volunteers. These dedicated volunteers provide those less fortunate with a hot meal and warm environment every week.

In 1992, three people attended their first dinner. Now in the tenth year of operation, these devoted volunteers typically serve 50–100 people a week. Since its inception, the Free Kitchen Project has served over 30,000 meals. This incredible growth is testament to the value they create for the Lake County Community.

The Board of Directors of the Free Kitchen Project, comprised of members of participating churches and organizations, governs the project and oversees health department regulations which include disability issues and safe food handling practices.

Mr. Speaker, after ten years of serving people in need, I would like to recognize the American spirit within the Free Kitchen Project and the town of Lakeport, California. The Free Kitchen Project has dedicated, selfless people performing a service to those in need. I am honored to recognize this immense act of volunteerism in one town on the occasion of their tenth anniversary. They truly deserve our recognition.

A TRIBUTE TO ONCOLOGY NURSES, CAREGIVERS FOR CANCER PATIENTS

HON. DEBORAH PRYCE

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 24, 2002

Ms. PRYCE of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to bring to the attention of my colleagues the important and essential role that oncology nurses play in the care of patients diagnosed with cancer. I know first hand the

powerful positive impact that oncology nurses have on the provision of quality cancer care and know that cancer patients would be lost without their expertise, care, love, and dedication. As anyone ever treated for cancer will tell you, oncology nurses are intelligent, well-trained, highly skilled, kind-hearted angels who provide quality clinical, psychosocial, and supportive care to patients and their families. In short, they are integral to our Nation's cancer care delivery system.

Cancer is a complex, multifaceted, and chronic disease, and people with cancer are best served by a multidisciplinary health care team specialized in oncology care, including nurses who are certified in that specialty. This year alone 1,284,900 Americans will hear the words "You have cancer." In addition, 555,500 will lose their battle with this terrible disease. Everyday, oncology nurses see the pain and suffering caused by cancer and understand the physical, emotional, and financial challenges that people with cancer face throughout their diagnosis and treatment. Oncology nurses play a central role in the provision of quality cancer care as they are principally involved in the administration and monitoring of chemotherapy and the associated side-effects patients may experience.

The Oncology Nursing Society (ONS) is the largest organization of oncology health professionals in the world with more than 30,000 registered nurses and other health care professionals. Since 1975, the Oncology Nursing Society has been dedicated to excellence in patient care, teaching, research, administration and education in the field of oncology. The Society's mission is to promote excellence in oncology nursing and quality cancer care. To that end, ONS honors and maintains nursing's historical and essential commitment to advocacy for the public good by providing nurses and healthcare professionals with access to the highest quality educational programs, cancer-care resources, research opportunities, and networks for peer support.

The ONS has 8 chapters in the great state of Ohio. These chapters located in the Cincinnati, Cleveland, Columbus, Toledo, Saint Paris, Zanesville, Lima, and Cuyahoga Falls areas serve the oncology nurses in the state and helps them to continue to provide high quality cancer care to those patients and their families in the state.

In particular, I would like to acknowledge three special oncology nurses from my district who will be in Washington this week to participate in the ONS Annual Congress and the ONS inaugural Hill Day—Deborah Babb and Luana Lamkin from Hilliard, Ohio and their colleague Betty Coffelt from Worthington, Ohio. I am looking forward to the pleasure of meeting with these outstanding women who have dedicated their lives to improving the health and well-being of people affected by cancer.

On behalf of all the people with cancer and their families in Ohio's 15th Congressional District, I thank Deborah, Luana, and Betty as well as all of their colleagues in the Oncology Nursing Society for their outstanding contributions to the provision of quality cancer care to those in need. Also, I would like to acknowledge Luana Lamkin for her leadership within the Oncology Nursing Society as she currently serves on the ONS Board of Directors as the Treasurer. I have had the pleasure of working with ONS and Luana over the past few years to advance programs and policies that work to

reduce suffering from cancer. Through Luana's and ONS' leadership, our Nation is charting a course that will help us win the war on cancer.

As part of the ONS inaugural Hill Day, approximately 550 oncology nurses—representing 48 states—will come to Capitol Hill to discuss issues of great significance to people with cancer and the field of oncology nursing. Specifically, these oncology nurses will call upon us in Congress to move quickly to reconcile the differences between the House and Senate versions of the "Nurse Reinvestment Act" and send a comprehensive measure to the President for signature by June 1st so that the measure can be funded fully in FY 2003; reform Medicare to ensure that the program reimburses adequately and accurately for the full-range of services provided by oncology nurses so that Medicare payment policy reflects the real value of oncology nursing and in turn, helps sustain our Nation's system of community-based cancer care for all Medicare beneficiaries; and allocate \$27.3 billion to the National Institutes of Health (NIH) to fulfill the commitment to double the NIH budget over five years, \$5.69 billion to the National Cancer Institute (NCI)—the amount the NCI Director deems necessary to take advantage of extraordinary opportunities, \$199.6 million for the NIH National Center for Minority Health and Health Disparities—the course necessary to double the Center's budget over the course of three years, and \$348 million for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Comprehensive Cancer Control, National Cancer Registries, Prostate Cancer Awareness, National Breast and Cervical Cancer Early Detection, Ovarian Cancer, Skin Cancer, and Colorectal Cancer Screening, Education and Outreach programs—to ensure that all Americans benefit from breakthroughs in cancer research, prevention, early detection, and treatment.

I commend the Oncology Nursing Society for all of its efforts and leadership over the last 27 years and thank the Society and its members for their ongoing commitment to improving and assuring access to quality cancer care for all cancer patients and their families. I urge all of my colleagues to support them in their important endeavors.

HONORING NATIONAL COMMUNITY RESIDENTIAL CARE MONTH—2002

HON. DOUG OSE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 24, 2002

Mr. OSE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the men and women who work hard everyday to provide quality health care for the elderly, disabled, and mentally ill. May is National Community Residential Care Month, and I can't think of a better way to pay tribute to these men and women.

Community care providers offer medical, social, and nutritional assistance to those in need. They are committed professionals who work hard to create comfortable environments for people who are unable to care for themselves in their own homes.

More importantly, these professionals work hard to boost the self-confidence of those whose confidence is often broken as a result

of their dependence on others. By caring and interacting with those in need, they have enriched the lives of those who they help.

Again, I want to congratulate all the men and women in this field of work. The U.S. Congress certainly appreciates the valuable service they provide. We thank you for the job you do and for the compassion which you bring to your field.

RECOGNITION OF CHAUNCEY VEATCH, NATIONAL TEACHER OF THE YEAR, COACHELLA VALLEY HIGH SCHOOL, THERMAL, CA

HON. MARY BONO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 24, 2002

Mrs. BONO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Chauncey Veatch, the National Teacher of the Year, from Coachella Valley High School in Thermal, CA. Mr. Veatch deserves our praise and admiration for this honor, and I am proud to have him teaching America's future leaders in California's 44th Congressional district.

Chauncey Veatch teaches social studies in Thermal to a particularly diverse group of students, where out of the 2,900 students at his school, approximately 96 percent are Latino and about half of those come from migrant families. Some of these students continue to struggle with the English language, though Mr. Veatch is able to work through these barriers to assist the youth around him. The high school itself lies in a desert area, and is thus unlike more urbanized areas of southern California, but boasts of rich agricultural resources and a proud community.

Mr. Veatch's background is one that undoubtedly helps in his ability to convey those concepts most important for his students while having a lasting effect on their educational careers. After the gulf war, and a distinguished military career that introduced him to many differing countries and cultures, Chauncey entered the Defense Language Institute at the Presidio of Monterey. There he immersed himself in Spanish, becoming an honor graduate in the Basic Class, in the Intermediate Class, and in the Advanced Class.

Given the passage last year of H.R. 1, the No Child Left Behind Act, the integral role that teachers play in the lives of our children was again apparent. Without guidance and assistance from teachers like Chauncey, we will not be able to properly introduce these reforms and have their implementation be successful. Both President Bush and Mrs. Bush have been great leaders in the vital role that teachers play in our society. President Bush stated well this concept in saying how important it is to "thank our teachers," and "herald such a noble and important profession for the future of our country."

The unique and extremely rewarding time spent in a classroom with Chauncey has already shown results, with his students receiving acclaim with regard to Math Day, Art Awards, and History Day, among many other awards. His classroom is truly a place for opportunity for all, where literacy and dreams are modeled into a lifetime of learning and believing in one's highest potential.

Thus it is easy to see why Chauncey Veatch has been selected as the National

Teacher of the Year, as he represents the professionalism, humility, understanding, and intelligence that deserves our attention.

Again, I would like to personally recognize and congratulate Chauncey Veatch for winning this award and for his continued contributions to the students and future of California's 44th District.

CALLING FOR A COMMITMENT TO ABOLISH NUCLEAR WEAPONS

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 24, 2002

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to include in the RECORD an urgent call for the world to end the threat of destruction from nuclear and other weapons of mass destruction. Despite the Cold War's demise over a decade ago, the possibility that a nuclear device or other weapon of mass destruction will one day wreak devastation remains real. Rather than defuse this threat by working to reduce the world's stores of these weapons, the current Administration has instead begun to explore ways to enhance our nuclear capabilities. The time has come for this Administration, this Congress, and this country to commit to the abolition of nuclear, chemical, and biological weapons. We must heed this urgent call.

An urgent call ending threats of mass destruction. Today, cities and nations are threatened as never before by weapons of mass destruction. The events of September 11 have brought home to Americans what it means to experience a catastrophic attack. Yet the horrifying losses that day were but a fraction of what any nation would suffer if a single nuclear weapon were used on a city, or a deadly, contagious disease were set loose in the land.

The peril from weapons of mass destruction is growing. Even as the great powers have refused to give up their nuclear arms, more nations have built nuclear weapons and threatened to use them. Terrorist groups are now seeking to acquire and use every kind of weapon of mass destruction.

The threats posed by huge stocks, proliferation, and terrorists can no longer be considered in isolation from one another. The nuclear powers' refusal to disarm fuels proliferation, and proliferation makes weapons of mass destruction ever more accessible to terrorists.

Despite the end of the cold war, U.S. administrations of both parties have planned to keep nuclear weapons indefinitely. Recently, the Bush administration's Nuclear Posture Review proposed to reduce "active" warheads; but this plan would keep the whole U.S. nuclear arsenal, active plus reserve, at its present size of about 10,000 warheads through 2012. Meanwhile, President Bush has requested funds to expand nuclear-weapons construction facilities and develop new "usable" nuclear weapons for a growing list of targets in the third world.

This drift toward catastrophe must be reversed. The time has come to say, Enough! Enough to the great powers who hold vast populations hostage to nuclear terror. Enough to nations that are spreading the threat of annihilation to new regions. Enough to the terrorists who plan the murder of hundreds of thou-

sands of innocent people, Safety from all weapons of mass destruction must be our goal. We can reach it only through cooperation among nations embodied in binding treaties and agreements.

We therefore call on the governments of the nuclear powers to commit themselves to abolish nuclear weapons and to set forth plans to move together, step by carefully inspected and verified step, toward this goal. As a first step, we call on the United States and Russia to reduce their nuclear arsenals over the next few years, tactical and strategic, active and reserve, to 1,000 weapons each. As a second step, we call on these countries and the other nuclear powers—England, France, China, Israel, India, and Pakistan—to proceed in the following few years to reduce their arsenals to no more than 100 nuclear weapons each. As a third step, these nations should separate all nuclear-warheads from their delivery vehicles, in preparation for their ultimate elimination. Simultaneously, the nuclear powers should strengthen the Nonproliferation Treaty by ratifying the Comprehensive Test Ban and adopting a ban on the Production of Fissile Material. The United States should complete talks to end North Korea's missile program, and the UN should institute an effective inspection regime in Iraq. The existing international bans on chemical and biological weapons should be made universal and fortified with stronger means of inspection and verification. Thus, measures to prevent proliferation and terrorist uses of weapons of mass destruction would go hand in hand with nuclear reductions.

Steps to eliminate weapons of mass destruction should be accompanied by steps to reduce the temptation to acquire or use them. The United States and other countries should redouble their efforts to resolve regional conflicts and prevent conventional war, and to build respect for the rule of law, protect human rights, and promote democratic institutions. And the wealthy industrial nations should launch a new Marshall Plan to help the poorest nations end starvation, illiteracy, and preventable disease, wipe out the burden of debt, and move toward sustainable development and a lasting peace, based on respect for the dignity and worth of every individual.

IN RECOGNITION OF JUNE, 2002 AS NATIONAL SAFETY MONTH

HON. RICHARD E. NEAL

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 24, 2002

Mr. NEAL of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to urge my colleagues to recognize June, 2002, as National Safety Month in an effort to promote awareness and education in safety matters not only in Western and Central Massachusetts, but across the entire United States of America.

The National Safety Council, founded in 1913 and chartered by Congress in 1953, designated June as National Safety Month in the hopes that if Americans spend a month practicing safety, the increased attention will continue throughout the year and decrease the number of unintentional injuries and deaths.

In 2000, over 97,000 people suffered unintentional-injury deaths. Motor vehicle crashes